

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A fastening device, comprising:  
[[ (a) ]] a lock piece ~~is forced~~ slidably disposed in a case and biased by a spring ~~[[to]]~~  
toward a fastening position wherein it is engage with an axial member in a case, and  
~~(b) when the axial member is inserted into the case, the lock piece moves back from the~~  
~~axial member,~~  
~~(c) later, the lock piece is engaged with the axial member so as to be fastened with the~~  
~~axial member; and~~  
a releasing member ~~is jointed together~~ connected with the lock piece ~~in such a way that~~  
~~the releasing member is provided by a pin and disposed in the case, said releasing member~~  
being configured for manual bias ~~[[so as]]~~ to move linearly so as toward the axial member and to  
~~release~~ displace the lock piece away from the fastening position, thereby releasing the lock  
piece from the axial member.
2. (Currently amended) The fastening device described in claim 1, wherein  
[[ (1) ]] said releasing member ~~can move linearly~~ moves in the direction perpendicular to  
the insertion direction of the axial member, and  
[[ (2) ]] said spring forces the releasing member to move in the direction perpendicular  
with respect to and away from the insertion direction of the axial member, ~~so that said spring~~  
~~forces the lock piece to engage with the axial member via the releasing member.~~
3. (Currently amended) The fastening device described in claim 1, wherein  
[[ (1) ]] guide grooves that extend in the direction perpendicular to the insertion direction of  
the axial member, are formed on ~~[[the]]~~ outer surface of the case,  
[[ (2) ]] the releasing member has guide arms that slide in the guide grooves, and  
[[ (3) ]] the guide arms and the lock piece are ~~jointed together by means of a~~ are  
interconnected by the pin.

4. (Currently Amended) The fastening device described in claim 1, wherein  
[[ (1) ]] the case has a slope that extends away from the axial member in the insertion direction of the axial member, and  
[[ (2) ]] ~~there are formed in the case (a) a tapered section on which the lock pieces slide, and (b) a supporting wall that faces the tapered section and supports the outer surface of the axial member with which the lock pieces engage~~ the lock piece has an angled surface which is configured to slide on the slope.
5. (Currently amended) The fastening device described in claim 2, wherein  
[[ (1) ]] guide grooves that extend in the direction perpendicular to the insertion direction of the axial member, are formed on ~~[[the]]~~ outer surface of the case,  
[[ (2) ]] the releasing member has guide arms that slide in the guide grooves, and  
[[ (3) ]] the guide arms and the lock piece are ~~jointed together by means of a~~ are interconnected by the pin.
6. (Currently amended) The fastening device described in claim 2, wherein  
[[ (1) ]] the case has a slope that extends away from the axial member in the insertion direction of the axial member, and  
[[ (2) ]] ~~there are formed in the case (a) a tapered section on which the lock pieces slide, and (b) a supporting wall that faces the tapered section and supports the outer surface of the axial member with which the lock pieces engage~~ the lock piece has an angled surface which is configured to slide on the slope.
7. (Currently amended) The fastening device described in claim 3, wherein  
[[ (1) ]] the case has a slope that extends away from the axial member in the insertion direction of the axial member, and  
[[ (2) ]] ~~there are formed in the case (a) a tapered section on which the lock pieces slide, and (b) a supporting wall that faces the tapered section and supports the outer surface of the axial member with which the lock pieces engage~~ the lock piece has an angled surface which is configured to slide on the slope.